

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of February 12, 2007**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Donald Wallace, Selectmen Melvin Adams (absent), Michael Demasi, Kenneth Johnson, and Roger LeClair. Also present were Town Manager Nanci Allard, Clerk Samantha Baraw, Jack Baroffio (Northfield Senior Center), Thelma Baroffio (Northfield Senior Center), Barbara Brayton (Northfield Senior Center), Brenda Cruickshank (VFW), Meg Donohue-Davis (RSVP), Warren Hagy, Arlene Harnois (Northfield Senior Center), Philip Harnois (Northfield Senior Center), Judy Jarvis (Good Beginnings), Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News & Transcript*), Tony Moulton (Northfield Boys & Girls Club), Phyllis Murphy (Listers), Barbara Pope (Good Beginnings), William Pope (Good Beginnings), Gregory Sanders, and Richard Suitor (Northfield Senior Center).

A Public Hearing for the purpose of providing written or oral views on the Warned Town Articles to be voted upon by Australian Ballot at the Annual Town Meeting on March 6, 2007, was warned to immediately precede the Selectboard's regular meeting.

Chair Wallace called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. He then opened the floor to any member of the public who wished to discuss the Australian Ballot articles (listed below).

Article 6. Shall the voters authorize an increase in the veterans' tax exemption for real property located in the Town of Northfield from \$10,000 to \$20,000 of assessed value, first applicable to the Grand List of 2007, as provided for in Title 32 of the *Vermont Statutes Annotated*? (Australian Ballot). Brenda Cruickshank, who is a Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Service Officer and a State Legislative Officer for VFW, stated that veteran must be fifty percent (50%) or higher disabled to be eligible. She stated that approximately eighteen (18) Northfield veterans would be affected.

Article 7. Shall the voters of Northfield approve a five year tax exemption status from July 2007 through June 2012 for the Greater Northfield Senior Citizens, Inc. a 501 C 3 non profit, also known as Northfield Senior Center? (Australian Ballot). Phil Harnois, President of Northfield Senior Center, stated that the Senior Center now has 265 members and three (3) part-time employees. Their budget is currently \$84,000 and their primary expenditure is the nutrition program. They also offer many other services to members, including foot clinics, legal aid, fitness programs, etc. They serve Northfield, Roxbury, Riverton (West Berlin), and some Brookfield residents.

Article 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Northfield appropriate an additional \$15,000 for the Greater Northfield Senior Center? (Australian Ballot). There was no further discussion (see Article 7 above).

Article 9. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$3000 for the Northfield Boys & Girls Club? (Australian Ballot). Tony Moulton (Northfield Boys & Girls Club's Unit Director) stated that the request is due to the additional number of youth served. They have increased the size of the rooms, the number of services offered, the amount of food provided, etc. Roxbury has contributed in the past and they have also been asked to increase their funding amount.

Article 10. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$2300 to pay for police coverage during the Labor Day weekend celebration (as requested by Northfield Observances)? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 11. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1500 for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program? (Australian Ballot). Meg Donohue-Davis stated that RSVP has expanded to include volunteers of all ages. There are twenty-eight (28) volunteers from Northfield. Anyone interested in volunteering, regardless of age, should contact her. Also, if there are any local services that are looking for volunteers, they can contact Ms. Donahue-Davis to be paired with volunteers.

Article 12. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1200 for Central Vermont Adult Basic Education? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 13. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for the Battered Women's Services and Shelter? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 14. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for the Central Vermont Community Action Council? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 15. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for the Central Vermont Council on Aging? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 16. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for Good Beginnings of Central Vermont? (Australian Ballot). Judy Jarvis and Barb Cope stated that there are about twenty (20) volunteers that go into the homes of families with new babies, or new adoptions, to help the family adjust. The program has been in existence for fifteen (15) years.

Article 17. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for Project Independence, Inc.? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 18. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$850 for the People's Health and Wellness Clinic? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 19. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$500 for Central Vermont Crime Stoppers? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 20. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$500 for the Family Center of Washington County? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 21. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$500 for the Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club? (Australian Ballot). This is not directly connected to the Northfield Boys & Girls Club. They do provide services for teens in the area and the Northfield Boys & Girls Club has utilized their services this year.

Article 22. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$350 for O.U.R. House of Central Vermont, Inc.? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 23. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$350 for the Washington County Diversion Program? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 24. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$200 for the Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington County? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

As there were no additional comments, Chair Wallace closed the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m. Chair Wallace thanked those who attended to represent their organization's request. The regular Selectboard meeting then commenced.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. **January 22, 2007 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Demasi, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- b. **January 29, 2007 (Special Meeting).** Motion by Selectman LeClair, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 3-0-1, with Selectman Demasi abstaining.**

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- a. **Warrant #16-07.** Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve Warrant #16-07 in the amount of \$57,199.12. **Motion passed 3-0-0.** *(Selectman Johnson was absent for this vote.)*

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

V. MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. **Long-Range Capital Plan.** The objective is to build a future plan for technology upgrades and updates. Motion by Selectman Demasi, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to accept the Capital Improvement Plan. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- b. **Status Reports: Various Projects.** Manager Allard had nothing to add.

VI. SELECTBOARD

a. 2007 Liquor License Renewal Applications:

1. **Convenience Plus.** Motion by Selectman LeClair, seconded by Selectman Demasi, to approve the application. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
2. **Depot Square Pizzeria.** Motion by Selectman Demasi, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve the application. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
3. **Grand Union Market.** Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Demasi, to approve the application. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
4. **Rustic Restaurant.** Motion by Selectman LeClair, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to postpone further action until clarification can be made on unmarked sections of application. **Motion passed 4-0-0.** This application will be on the next regular meeting agenda.

b. Executive Summary: Gresser Driveway Permit. Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve the permit. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

c. Government Banking Resolution. There is a feeling that there should be a second signatory on checks, as per the Town Auditor's recommendation. Currently, Kim Pombar is the only authorized signature. The Manager's recommendation is that Administrative Assistant Kenneth McCann be authorized to sign checks during the Town Clerk's absence. Motion by Selectman Demasi, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve the Resolution. **Motion passed 4-0-0.** This is only applicable to the current Administrative Assistant; should that situation change, the Manager must come back to the Board for new authorization.

d. Seven-Month Financial Statements. We will be over budget on the Auditor's Report. Other than that, things look as though they are in good shape.

e. Status Reports: Various Projects

1. **Safe Routes 2 School.** Selectman LeClair stated there will be an upcoming meeting on this. The tentative dates are March 7 or 8, 2007.
2. **New Municipal Facilities.** The recommendation is that the Village Trustees be included in all future planning sessions for the proposed facilities.
3. **Selectman Demasi.** Selectman Demasi stated that as he will be unable to attend the next regular meeting, this will be his last one as Selectman. He stated that he has enjoyed the last few years and thanked the Board and the public for their patience.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items

1. **Gregory Sanders.** Mr. Sanders asked what happens with the light bars, sirens, radio equipment, etc. that are removed from retired police cruisers. Manager Allard is unsure but will find out.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Selectman Demasi, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to adjourn. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha H. Baraw

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.